

What is claimed is:

1. A compound that binds to a thrombopoietin receptor, wherein said compound comprises (H-IEGPTLRQ(2-Nal)LAARX₁₀)₂K-NH₂, wherein X₁₀ is selected from the group consisting of sarcosine or β-alanine.
2. The compound of claim 1, wherein said compound is covalently attached to a hydrophilic polymer.
3. The compound of claim 2, wherein said hydrophilic polymer has an average molecular weight of between about 500 to about 40,000 daltons.
4. The compound of claim 2, wherein said hydrophilic polymer has an average molecular weight of between about 5,000 to about 20,000 daltons.
5. The compound of claim 2, wherein said polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene glycol, polypropylene glycol, polylactic acid and polyglycolic acid.
6. The compound of claim 5, wherein said compound is covalently attached to polyethylene glycol.
7. The compound of claim 1, wherein each of the dimeric subunits of said compound is covalently attached to a hydrophilic polymer.
8. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of claim 1 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
9. A method for treating a patient suffering from a disorder that is susceptible to treatment with a thrombopoietin agonist, comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically effective dose or amount of a compound of claim 1.